

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan Massey on 12/28/09.

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The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 20, delete "portion" and add --leg--.

7. (currently amended) A unitized pinion seal for mounting between a first member and a second member rotatable relative to the first member, the unitized pinion seal comprising:

a metal sleeve adapted to mount rotationally fixed to the first member, said sleeve including an outer surface having a ramp portion disposed between an axially extending forward cylindrical leg and an axially extending rear cylindrical leg, wherein said axially extending forward cylindrical leg has a smaller diameter than said axially extending rear cylindrical leg, a radially extending leg extending radially outward from an end of said axially extending rear cylindrical leg; and

a seal supported by a metal retainer, said metal retainer including a first axially extending leg which is mounted directly to an axially extending surface of the metal sleeve in a radial interference fit and said metal retainer including a second leg adapted to mount to the second member, said metal retainer having a leg engaging said radially extending leg of said metal

sleeve, said seal including a first seal lip engaging said axially extending forward cylindrical leg and a second seal lip engaging said axially extending rear cylindrical leg;

wherein said metal retainer is disengaged from said metal sleeve during assembly of said metal sleeve on to said first member, such that said leg of said metal retainer is moved axially away from said radially extending leg of said metal sleeve.

9. (currently amended) The unitized pinion seal of claim 7, wherein said radially extending leg of said metal sleeve extending radially outward ~~the metal sleeve further comprises a radially extending leg extending radially outward from an end of said axially extending rear cylindrical leg~~ and an axially extending leg extending axially from a radially outer end of said radially extending leg, said metal retainer first axially extending leg being mounted to a surface of said axially extending leg of said metal sleeve; and

wherein said axially extending leg and said axially extending forward and rear cylindrical of said metal sleeve each include a length greater than a length of said radially extending portion of said metal sleeve.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer H. Gay can be reached on 571-272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. P./  
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